



## A -- Research And Development

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### General Information

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### Contracting Office Address

Department of the Navy, Office of Naval Research, Naval Research Laboratory, 4555 Overlook Ave. S.W., Washington, DC, 20375

### Description

This is a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) soliciting information from industry on developing or proven technologies supportive of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard have defined MDA to be the effective understanding of anything associated with the global maritime environment that could impact the security, safety, economy or environment of the United States. MDA involves the collection, fusion, and dissemination of enormous quantities of data and information drawn from U.S. joint forces, U.S. government agencies, international coalition partners and forces, and commercial entities. The depth of information collected from these various sources is weaved together to enrich a comprehensive common operating picture (COP) that is envisioned to be

distributed widely among users with access to data that is classified appropriately. In short, the purpose of MDA is to generate actionable intelligence for exchange within a global enterprise of analysts as well as front-line military and law enforcement professionals. Without actionable intelligence, counterterrorist or maritime law enforcement operations are seldom fruitful. The challenge is to integrate and fuse effectively the various inputs to achieve the synergies offered by a comprehensive situational awareness picture, while being responsive to the information needs of participating agencies.

NRL has multiple ongoing MDA programs. A three-year effort recently selected is referred to as Maritime Automatic Super Track Enhanced Reporting (MASTER). MASTER objectives include (1) Aggregating data from multiple sources useful in determining ship movement, current location, and intentions, (2) Further automating the generation and maintenance of tracks of ships of all sizes on a global basis, (3) Associating/linking relevant metadata to ship tracks that assist front-line personnel and analysts in determining track history, current behavior, status, and other pertinent information, (4) Generating and attaching notification, alert, and warning metadata to ship tracks that can be used to flag vessels of interest accurately, and (5) Reporting tracks and metadata to front-line military or law enforcement personnel and analysts at different security levels. The anticipated capability enhancements will be: (1) Greatly improved maritime situational awareness, (2) Automatic maintenance of a large number of ship tracks per day, (3) A service-oriented architecture (SOA).

Specifically, this RFI seeks information on non-proprietary MDA efforts and technology under contract to a United States Government or foreign government agency. Such efforts completed and demonstrated within the last year are also of interest as well as commercial offerings (e.g., of vessel metadata). Data sources, successes, and innovations in the following areas are of special interest: (1) Sensor data from governmental systems and shore-based facilities that provide vessel identification or vessel location, (2) Tracker/correlator/fusion algorithms for different operating areas (open ocean, littorals, straights, and ports), (3) Multi-source vessel metadata, (4) Detection methods and alerting criteria for ship behavior or metadata deviating from historical norms, published plans, or predictions, and (5) Accredited mechanisms to exchange information dynamically between systems and applications at different security levels.

Vendors interested in responding to this RFI may submit information by mail or email in English no later than October 26, 2006. Information may be submitted to: Naval Research Laboratory, 4555 Overlook, Ave. S.W., ATTN: Mr. Louis Chmura, Code 8145, 4555 Overlook Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20375, or to email address: nrlmda@kingcrab.nrl.navy.mil. Submissions should include the following information: (a) Name of current or recent contract effort, (b) Government contract number, (c) Government Program Manager contact information, (d) Vendor Point of Contact, and (e) Summary of effort (two-page maximum). Submissions at higher classification levels can be arranged upon request. Submission of a response to this RFI is voluntary. The voluntary submission of a response to this RFI shall not obligate the NRL to pay or entitle the submitter. NRL may contact selected vendors for subsequent technical discussions. Responses received after October 26, 2006 will not be reviewed.

## Point of Contact

Lisa Fleming, Contract Specialist, Phone 202-767-3739, Fax 202-767-6197, Email [lisa.fleming@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:lisa.fleming@nrl.navy.mil)

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